

SUMMER READING FOR FRESHMEN

There will be an In-Class Writing Assignment during the first week of school.

The teachers in the English Department welcome you to Bishop Foley Catholic High School. We look forward to sharing your enthusiasm and excitement as you begin your high school education at Foley.

To optimize learning in your English classes the English Department has established a summer reading requirement for all students. Please begin preparing for your classes by reading the selected works of literature listed below during your summer vacation.

Summer reading will be the subject of your in-class writing assignment during the first week of school. In order to be prepared to write about the novel, focus on character development, plot details, conflicts, and themes while you read.

Literature and Composition – Grade 9

(Please select one of the following and be prepared to write an in-class essay on your selection)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

The narrator, Christopher Boone, is autistic and has the related cognitive condition, Asperger's Syndrome. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides to investigate and track down the killer.

Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town by Warren St. John

This is the true story of a soccer team made up of refugees living in small town Clarkston, Georgia. The book documents the struggle between the town and the large influx of refugee inhabitants, and tells the story of how the coach, Luma Mufleh worked tirelessly to help these boys transition into American culture, by giving them a taste of home on the soccer field.

Thunder Over Kandahar by Sharon E. McKay

At first, Yasmine and Tamanna could not seem more different. One girl was raised in England as the only child of Radcliffe- and Oxford-educated parents, thus accustomed to certain privileges and freedoms; the other, whose brother was coerced into joining the Taliban, is bound by filial expectations, including the prospect of early marriage. When violence forces the two girls to escape their homes on foot, they reveal a courage born of a friendship that is more akin to sisterhood.

Honors Literature and Composition – Grade 9

(Please read both selections and be prepared to write an in-class essay on each of them)

Peeled by Joan Bauer

Hildy Biddle is a sixteen year old journalist determined to find the truth. She lives in Banaville, New York which has an abundance of apple orchards and a haunted house that has come back to life. Hildy, along with the help of the members of the school newspaper, the *Core*, set off on a journey of clues and lies to solve the mystery of the Ludlow house.

The Red Umbrella by Christina Gonzalez

In 1961, two years after the Communist revolution, Lucía Álvarez still leads a carefree life, dreaming of parties and her first crush. But when the soldiers come to her sleepy Cuban town, everything begins to change. Lucía's parents make the heart-wrenching decision to send her and her little brother to the United States—on their own.

We are aware that some of the novels include harsh language and themes, but we feel the literary and historical merits of the texts are valuable. If you, as a parent, have any concerns, please call Mr. Eric Haley, Assistant Principal at 248 585-1210.

We certainly encourage you not to wait until mid-August. Allow yourself time to read and enjoy these works.

Sincerely,

The English Department